Isn't escort just another word for prostitute?

Strictly speaking, no. It's sort of hard to have standard definitions since each individual in the business defines herself using whatever terminology she deems appropriate. Although I offer more detailed definitions in the book, for conversational purposes, I define an escort as a hired companion who can offer both companionship and sexual intimacy as needed. I define prostitution as a strict money-for-sex transaction in which the provider has no interest in extending the relationship beyond sexual activity.

Another point to keep in mind is that street prostitution, the most common form of prostitution that people are aware of, is often reported to be only 10% of all prostitution. The other 90% can encompass obvious sex-for-money transactions such as "massage" parlors and plenty of grey area, such as mistress arrangements or escorts. Prostitution is a very elastic term, which is why I give a particular definition for escorts.

Don't guys hire escorts just to have sex?

Some guys do. No escort can control the motivations of her clients. But the majority of men willing to pay \$300/hr and up for companionship usually are looking for something more than just mere sucking and fucking.

- Aren't words like "escort" and "courtesan" just self-rationalizing terms? Every human rationalizes what they do, which is why so many people call onenight stands "making love." Usually terms like "courtesan," "paid companion," and escort" are used in an attempt to define the quality of the experience the client will receive. Of course, every individual's definition of such words is open to interpretation, but using descriptive words that aren't strict prostitution terms is to impress on the client that he isn't just paying for sex. Girls often use these words because they feel they offer much more than just sex. That's not rationalization. That's business.
- Why is this book/series important for escorts?

This is the first series of its kind. I'm offering an in-depth exploration of every facet of the job with the intention of offering options, support and to enable escorts to have the best experiences they can while making a good living. My information is current; nor do I write from the view that all escorts are pathologically unsound or need to find Jesus. I do have my standards, though - I don't hesitate to light a fire if I think it will impel the reader to improve themselves.

Aren't there any other books like this?

There are a number of escort memoirs and certainly plenty of fiction which features escort characters. But I've found only a handful of non-fiction books that address the business of being an escort and only one of those, in my opinion, has any relevance to the realities of the job. My series is different from that book in that this is focused exclusively on Internet escorts and is much more detailed.

Are you trying to "teach" escorts? Recruit them? What?

I'm not trying to become an escort "teacher." I'm certainly not trying to recruit. I am trying to educate escorts and non-escorts alike. If anything, I hope that by presenting the realities of the job I'll allow people who are wrong for this work to recognize it and choose another career path. I want to see a new generation of girls who are happy with their choices and happy with their lives. Being an escort can be a very good thing - for the right person.

What value does this book have for the average woman or man?

The average reader who is not in the business will probably enjoy having their questions answered by someone who is in the business. I offer an answer to anyone has ever wondered what it would be like. I don't offer a whole lot of gossip, drama or tragedy. As a whole, the adult industry is becoming more and more intriguing to a growing number of people. Escort work is one area that is still shrouded in myths. So I guess I'm a sexual myth-buster.

What difficulties did you experience while producing this book?

About the only difficulty I *didn't* experience was in choosing my title. Finding people to work with me in producing the book was very difficult. It opened up a whole new side to the small press industry; one that certainly *isn't* written about in writing books. In the spirit of making lemonade...I plan on using my experiences as a basis for writing a book aimed at small publishers of controversial material. This is needed information that isn't out there so I will put it out there.

What were your best and worst escort experiences?

I often say I was "lucky," but that's not true. I screen carefully and am hyperparanoid so I really don't have *bad* experiences. For me, a bad experience is having to deal with an asshole or getting shorted on payment. That's really it.

I've met many wonderful men who were eager to show me a good time or that I completely connected with. I've had amazing experiences on many levels: social (fabulous dinners, nice trips), sexual or the personal (making a new friend for life).

Do you have a background of sexual abuse?

My childhood was not perfect. The difficulties I had at home and in school had the effect of making me a stronger, more determined, ambitious person and more empathetic of other's pain. It also turned me into an independent cuss who questions authority and the status quo. I refuse to believe that my conscious choices and decisions as a fully-functioning adult all depend on what happened to me before I was 18. I believe in the power of my own free will much more than that.

A perfect childhood does not mean one won't be drawn to living an unusual life; nor does a terrible childhood mean one will always be doomed to be a victim of circumstance. Everyone has to take responsibility for their own choices and actions after a certain point in life. I was far beyond that point when I decided that I would like to try being an escort.

Are you currently in a relationship?

I've recently ended a long-term relationship. I've blogged about it a little bit, but not much. I don't like discussing deeply personal issues in public. At the moment I'm dating, but am not willing to settle down anytime soon.

Does being an escort get in the way of your personal life?

Yes. Balancing a sexual relationship with escort work is not easy, no matter how open-minded one's lover is. Being a semi-public figure makes things tougher because I don't like my personal and public lives mixing.

Why did you retire?

I was retired from 6/31/04-5/08 for a serious relationship. The idea of retirement was raised by him, though it was a mutual decision. That is a decision I will never make again. I learned a lot, mainly that giving up my freedom, independence and personal power for a traditional relationship was not a good trade.

Do you consider yourself a feminist?

I was born a feminist! "Feminist" is not a dirty word. To me, it simply means "pro-woman." This doesn't mean anti-male and it certainly doesn't mean anti-sex. I'm happy and proud to be a woman and I would not change it for anything. I don't feel the need to hide or apologize for being female. I feel that women are the strongest untapped resource on this planet.

Being a heterosexual escort and a feminist are not disparate ideas. A woman who enjoys her body and controls her life is the best kind of feminist.

Is Amanda Brooks your real name? Are you "concealing" your identity? It is my legal professional name. It's really me that you see. I'm very identifiable. There really isn't much being concealed.

Are you currently working as an escort?

I am a current sex worker and sex work activist. To see what sort of work sex workers do, take a look at this definition by <u>SerpentLibertine at SexPros.net</u>.

Is prostitution legal in Las Vegas?

No. Clark County has not legalized prostitution. It does offer escort licenses, which many take advantage of to offer outcall stripper services. Though you see the flyers and advertisements everywhere, this does not mean sex for money is legal in Las Vegas. Moreover, most of these companies are very abusive to both their employees and their clients. They exist only to make money; not to make anyone happy.

The legal brothels nearest to Las Vegas are Sheri's Ranch, The Chicken Ranch and The Shady Lady Ranch.

Do you think prostitution should be legalized?

I think it should be decriminalized. This would give both clients and providers a lot of legal consumer protection. I feel this would open up a whole new level of trust and honesty between providers and clients.

A lot of civilized countries are decriminalizing prostitution. Their societies are not falling apart just because women are legally entitled to pursue their destiny as they see fit. Prostitution is something that has gone on since the dawn of time, has never stopped and never will. In countries where prostitution is criminalized, it's nearly always the women who feel the weight of the law. This is unfair since an act of prostitution requires at least two individuals in order to be completed.

There are a lot of thorny issues that come along with legalizing or decriminalizing prostitution. I don't have answers for those issues. I haven't studied the topic enough and I'm not a policy-maker. But I believe that removing the criminality of a private act between consenting adults is a step in the right direction. I believe that bringing prostitution out into the open will help get rid of such negatives as: police abuse, predators posing as clients, child trafficking, adult trafficking and pimps. Keeping prostitution illegal means that the real criminals can flourish. Taking away the criminals' power is the best thing that could happen to women in the industry - whether they work indoors or on the streets.

Can you tell me how to hire an escort?

Can you tell me how to get started as an escort?

No and no, unfortunately. My right to free speech only extends so far. Research is the best way to learn about anything and the Internet is full of information (so is this Web site!).